

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

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| In re Patent Application of |) | MAIL STOP ISSUE FEE |
| |) | |
| Hiroaki Sano et al. |) | Group Art Unit: 3726 |
| |) | |
| Application No.: 10/525,972 |) | Examiner: JOHN C HONG |
| |) | |
| Filed: February 28, 2005 |) | Confirmation No.: 3183 |
| |) | |
| For: TUBE CONNECTING APPARATUS |) | |
| AND TUBE CONNECTING METHOD |) | |

DISCUSSION OF SUBSTANCE OF TELEPHONIC INTERVIEW

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:


Examiner Hong telephoned the undersigned in the early part of September to discuss a change to independent Claim 1 to define that the cutting unit cuts the pipes at only a single place along the first position of the tubes. This change was requested to avoid any possible interpretation of Claim 1 being similar to the disclosure in International Application Publication No. WO 02/066098. The undersigned authorized Examiner Hong to make the requested change to Claim 1.

Should any questions arise concerning this application, the undersigned respectfully requests that he be contacted at the number indicated below.

Respectfully submitted,

BUCHANAN INGERSOLL & ROONEY PC

Date: October 12, 2009

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